

Frankford Arsenal, Building 240
Northeast corner of Hagner Road and Clay Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-74AB

HAER
PA.
51-PHILA,
693-AB-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Frankford Arsenal, Building 240

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Location: Northeast corner of Hagner Road and Clay Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1864-1865

Significance: The earliest portions of Building 240 were constructed in the 1860s as a powder magazine. The building is thus associated with one of the most basic functions of Frankford Arsenal, the production and storage of powder and munitions for the United States Army. Alterations and additions to the original building, dating from the 1940s, are indicative of the arsenal's expansion during World War II.

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HISTORY

Building 240 was built as a magazine in 1864-1865. It was rebuilt following a fire in 1941. After 1942, the building served as a small arms ammunition breakdown shop.

DESCRIPTION

Building 240 is constructed with double brick walls and an air space atop a concrete foundation. The single-story building measures approximately 35 feet by 52 feet. The gabled asbestos shingle roof has two ventilators located along the ridge line and a dentiled and corbeled brick cornice with full returns. Brick pilasters divide the facades into window bays, which are capped by dentiled brickwork. Windows are segmental arches with wooden casement sash. A concrete blast wall is located south of the building.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal," West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979.

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies are on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

For complete overview of site, see HAER No. PA-74.

